

Message Text

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44

ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 PM-04 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 EB-07 INR-07

SSO-00 INRE-00 ISO-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY OES/SCI:DHOYLE/NEA/INS:DKUX:EI

APPROVED BY OES:MKRATZER

ERDA:HCURTIS (SUBS)

ACDA:CVANDOREN (SUBS)

PM/NPO:MCGUINNESS (SUBS)

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O R 091438Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223031

STADIS//////////

FOR COURTNEY FROM KRAT/ER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR BUY-BACK

REF: BOMBAY 2346

1. HAVE REVIEWED BOMBAY 2346 AND THINK THERE IS SOME MIS-
UNDERSTANDING ON SETHNA'S PART WHICH YOU HAVE CORRECTLY
ALLAYED. YOU CAN RECONFIRM TO HIM THAT WE HURRIED TO GET
THE DATA ON THE CASKS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SINCE HE
STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A PROMPT RESPONSE ON THIS ASPECT
OF THE BUY-BACK PROBLEM IF WE WERE TO MOVE AHEAD AS EXPE-
DITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE IN ADDRESSING OTHER AREAS. WE ASKED
THE U.S. EXPERTS TO HAND CARRY THE TECHNICAL DATA ON CASKS
AS THE QUICKEST WAY TO PASS THIS INFORMATION TO SETHNA.
THIS SUBJECT IS, OF COURSE, HIGHLY RELEVANT TO SETHNA'S
CONCERN OVER LIMITED REMAINING STORAGE CAPACITY FOR DIS-
CHARGED FUEL, AND HIS RESPONSE TO RELATED QUESTIONS WILL
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PROVIDE IMPORTANT INPUT TO RESOLVING THIS ASPECT OF THE

OVERALL QUESTION.

2. WITH REGARD TO PRICING AND RECYCLING OF PLUTONIUM PINS, YOU CAN TELL SETHNA THAT AS USUAL HE HAS PUT HIS FINGER ON THE TOUGH ISSUES. TO NO ONE'S SURPRISE, INDIAN INTEREST IN CONSIDERING RECYCLING OF U.S. ORIGIN PLUTONIUM FOR EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES HAS RESURFACED THE COMPLEX SERIES OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES RELATING TO THE REPROCESSING QUESTION WHICH

THE TOTAL BUY-BACK PROPOSAL WAS INTENDED TO RESOLVE.

3. AS SETHNA IS ALSO NO DOUBT AWARE, THE PRICING QUESTION IS A DIFFICULT TECHNICAL MATTER. UNDERSTANDABLY, THERE ARE A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS AS HOW BEST TO APPROACH THIS, ESPECIALLY KEEPING IN MIND THE NEED FOR THE USG TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

4. YOU SHOULD STRESS TO SETHNA THAT IN NO SENSE SHOULD HE CONSIDER THAT HE IS BEING PRESENTED "FAIT ACCOMPLI." WE ARE HARD AT WORK ON THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY SETHNA IN BOMBAY IN PREPARATION FOR THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON AFTER THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE. IN THIS CONTEXT, YOU MIGHT REMIND SETHNA THAT ;E HAD AGREED TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO OUR CONCERNS OVER CIRUS HEAVY WATER, AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO THIS PROBLEM WHEN HE VISITS THE U.S. WE WILL ALSO WANT TO REVIEW SITUATION RE U.S. ORIGIN HEAVY WATER IN RAPP I.

5. PLEASE STRESS THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING SETHNA IN RIO AND TO RECIPROCATING HIS WARM HOSPITALITY IN WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH. I PLAN TO HAVE SMALL DINNER FOR HIM AND MRS. SETHNA EVENING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28. PLEASE ASCERTAIN IF THIS IS ACCEPTABLE. KISSINGER

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